

## Squaw Butte Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho Summary of Activities for 2008

The Squaw Butte chapter's 2008 year, started out on a very sad note, with the passing of past president and good friend Robert Howard Sr. Bob was a master packer and shared his year of experience mentoring to all who had the privilege to ride with him. He was also an exceptional Dutch oven cook, whose tasty additions to our event pot luck meals will be missed.

The chapter had a number of goals that were started in 2007 that we continued to pursue in 2008. A major emphasis was placed on continued and expanded outreach to the federal agencies, other outdoor groups, and the public. We accomplished this goal in a number of ways. We developed working relationships with the Payette and Cascade Ranger District as well as continued our long term relationship with the Emmett rangers. These relationships provided Squaw Butte with some very interesting projects to work on as well as gave us a voice on trail management issue these districts administer. We also manned informational booths at horse events, hosted events for the public, and partnered with another trail user group for National Trails Day.

January: January was our planning month. The 2008 chapter leadership team met to wrap up the previous year, audit the books, and plan the upcoming season. Contact was made with all the local ranger districts to see for what projects they were interested in soliciting volunteer help. These projects were worked into the upcoming year's schedule.

February: February was our warm-up month. The chapter along with the other two chapters in southwestern Idaho took turns manning a BCHI information booth at the "Horse Affair" held at the Boise fair grounds. This was an opportunity to visit with the public about the organization and to advertise the upcoming "Back Country Skills Clinic". We also held our first ride of the season at Celebration Park along the Snake River. This area is likely to be snow free and it is a fun place to ride horses, which are often full of vim and vigor after a couple of months off.

March: By March we were 'back in the saddle' hosting rides and clinics and attending training. The Emmett Ranger District hosted a "First Aid Certification class" which was free to BCHI members. A first aid card is required before taking the Forest Service sawyer classes and having trained members make us all safer in the back country. The "Little Butte Ride and Dutch Oven Cook Off

Potluck” has become an annual tradition with the Squaw Butte Chapter. Combining riding and food it provides a social setting for riders and non-riding family members. The last weekend of the month was our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Back Country Skills Clinic”. This year 85 members and guest participated in a full day of lecture and hand-on presentations. Each year the number of attendees grows and the presentations become more varied. Highlights this year included What to bring and what to leave behind; Buying, selling, and transporting stock; and One Step Horsemanship. Marybeth and Bill Conger led the presentation and discussion on “what to bring and what to leave behind” on a pack trip. Larry Hayhurst, the state brand inspector, talked about buying, selling and transporting stock in Idaho. Larry answered a lot of questions and sparked a lively discussion. Dr. David Hayes, Idaho state veterinarian and a very popular speaker at past clinics, kept his audience riveted to their rather cold wooden seats with his “One Step Horsemanship”, insight into how horses think and how to safely work around them. He was assisted by two up and coming young horses ‘Laci’ and ‘Payette’. The hands-on Dutch oven and meal planning classes were also well attended and the results of the Dutch oven class were enjoyed at the lunch break. Always popular and very well attended was the hands-on Packing classes. Both beginner and more advanced packing techniques were demonstrated and attempted by all who were interested or just wanted to give it a try.

April: Squaw Butte sent a delegation to Lewiston to the spring Backcountry Outdoor Show & BCHI Convention. This event was a great time. Squaw Butte was the hosting chapter in 2007. In 2008 others had to do the work, while our members just got to enjoy themselves. The Idaho Horse Expo was held in April at the Nampa Horse Center. It is sponsored by the Idaho Horse Council and was another great opportunity to let the public know about BCHI and how to become involved. We also held our third ride of the year in the Hard Trigger area of the Owyhee Mountains.

May: We gathered for our annual clean up and pick up of our adopted 2 mile stretch of Highway 52 along the Black Canyon Reservoir. The chapter also held a ride on the Weiser River Trail. This ride was well attended and is a great spring tune up for your horse. The Emmett Ranger District hosted a Sawyer A/B training class. The classroom portion of this training was held at the ranger district office. The hands-on portion was postponed until June due to a tragic accident in Sweet, which prevented the members taking the training to drive to the area designated for the training. The chapter ended the month with a yard sale. This sale turned out to be a very successful fund raiser and help members

get rid of a lot of stuff taking up space in their barns and tack rooms. Sadly in the middle of May, a treasured member of Squaw Butte, Dr. Sally Schindele passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Sally will be missed by all who had the honor to know her.

June: Once June arrived we were ready to take on the weekend work projects that we had scheduled and planned back in January. National Trails Day was an interesting multi-day project. On Friday, Phil Ryan and Terry MacDonald, working with a crew from the Emmett Ranger District, packed in explosives to remove four dangerous sections on the Peace Creek Trail. Other members joined the project Friday night. On Saturday, members of a local mountain bike club joined Squaw Butte members in doing major tread work on the trail. A number of water bars were added and in the areas that were blasted, a large amount of rock was removed and a new trail bed was build. It was very satisfying to work together to make a popular trail safer for both stock and mountain bikes. After the work was completed the two groups held a steak BBQ and had a very lively and informative discussion about how each group viewed and used the local trails on public lands. Combined projects like this get groups working together, not fighting each other for control of the trails. The month's final event was a multi-day work project at Wapati Meadows Ranch in Yellow Pine, Idaho. This project entailed work on both public and private lands and involved trail rehabilitation in some of the burn areas of the 2007 Yellow Pine fires.

July: The highlight of July was a multi-day pack trip into the Frank Church Wilderness. The Corduroy Meadows area of the Frank is an excellent area to do a long weekend pack trip. The trip was arranged around the idea of a common kitchen and common meals. Pack stock was provided so those members without pack stock could experience packing in. Members were responsible for their personal equipment, taking care of their stock and sharing chores around camp. It was a huge success, with all who attended having a great time. Because July had an early evening full moon, a ride was held to take advantage of the evening. For the last few years, members of the chapter have met around 9 PM east of Emmett and taken a moonlight ride through the foot hills. It has been a fun and a very unique experience for most riders. The chapter also did some down fall removal on the Lighting Ridge trail in Garden Valley. This is a spectacular trail, but has very limited trailer parking.

August: Projects in August were in areas that still had snow in July. The chapter worked a number of trails on West Mountain, north of Ola and on Hitt Mountain southwest of Cambridge. Trail projects for 2008 had excellent member turnout.

This made the work go faster, allowed us to complete a lot more miles of trail and made for some really great potluck dinners after the work was finished.

September: We finished up the last of the work projects with a return to Wilson Corral on West Mountain to complete work on two trails. Again member turn out was excellent, the weather perfect and the riding scenic. The chapter also held a fun ride in the Diamond Basin area near Silver City in the Owyhee's.

October: With the coming of October our work season ended. As the hunters entered the high country, we moved our activities to Circle G River Ranch for the 3rd annual "Packers Play Day". This open-to-the-public event is a great way to improve your horsemanship while having a great time playing on your horse. Turn out was around 60 riders and 30 spectators. The Gem-Boise County 4-H Horse Program members catered the lunch as a fund raiser. Kids and adults who have attended the event in the past say that they really look forward to our play day because it is so much fun.

November: November brought a winding down of our activities. We gathered for the annual fall clean up and pick up of our adopted 2 mile stretch of Highway 52 along the Black Canyon Reservoir. As snow comes to the high country our rides move to the desert and a ride was held in the Owyhee's. Cabela's asked us to provide a day of packing demonstrations and informational presentations at their Boise store. The day was a success and they have asked us to return again for 2009. The BCHI calendars were delivered and members were encouraged to sell them to friends, family and to consider giving them as Christmas gifts. The chapter started receiving 2009 memberships.

December: We finished off the year with the elections of the 2009 leadership team and the annual Christmas party pot luck and White Elephant gift

exchange.

## Backcountry Horsemen of America Volunteer Hours Report

State or Affiliate

### 2008 Volunteer Hours Report

	P1 Totals	Rate per hour/mile	Total Value	
Total Basic Hours	228	\$15.00	\$3,420.00	
Total Skilled Hours	298	\$25.00	\$7,450.00	
Total Trail Recon	74	\$15.00	\$1,110.00	
Total LNT - Education	445	\$15.00	\$6,675.00	
Total Public- Meeting	56	\$15.00	\$840.00	
Total Administrative Service	197	3% x hrs x \$15.00	\$88.65	
Total Travel Time	721	\$15.00	\$10,815.00	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>2019</b>			
Personal Vehicle	8691	\$.80/mile	\$6,952.80	
Stock Hauling	9241	\$1.00/mile	\$9,241.00	
<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>17932</b>			
Power Equipment	106	\$23.00/hr plus \$3.00	2756	Or local rate if known plus \$3.00/hr.
Heavy Equipment	0	\$78.00/hr plus \$3.00	0	Or local rate if known plus \$3.00/hr.
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>106</b>			
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)	107			
Total Stock Days	181	\$100.00/day	\$18,100.00	
Total Donations	\$0.00		\$0.00	

\$67,448.45